





The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Susquehanna Symphony's home is in Harford County, Maryland, near the mouth of the Susquehanna River. The Orchestra performs a subscription series of concerts every year in addition to outdoor and chamber music concerts. The Orchestra has performed opera and ballet, as well as standard orchestral repertoire, and is known for its premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire. The Orchestra performed in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City for over 3,000 people in November 2007, and at Carnegie Hall for 2,500 people in October 2009.

This year marks the 37th Season of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert, and look forward to many more years of making music!

Our Mission

Through the diverse programming of standard orchestral literature as well as newer and lesser-known works, The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra strives to enliven the spirit, inspire the imagination, cultivate musical appreciation, and serve the educational and entertainment needs of Harford County, Maryland and surrounding areas.

Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank Michael Krantz of the Town of Bel Air for his help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations. We are also indebted to Paul Labe, Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We thank BAHS Principal Greg Komondor; Terri Matthews, Music Department Chair; and especially Paul Bowden, Drama Department Chair for concert night support. We thank our ticket outlets; The Open Door Café, for providing such delicious intermission treats and after concert dinner; and our donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible. Please patronize the advertisers and businesses which support us (both in this program and on our website) and tell them the SSO sent you.

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Some Assembly Required -Music for the Holidays

December 7, 2013

Theldon Myers

People Look East

Todd Goodman (Music)
Justin Cober-Lake (Story)

Some Assembly Required
Narrator: Morgan Bair

Percy Grainger

(1882 - 1961)

Orchestrated by Carl Simpson

The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol

Benjamin Britten

(1913–1976)

Men of Goodwill

(Variations on a Christmas Carol)

Intermission

Leon Jessel

(1871–1942) (arr. Donald Raff) The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers

arr. Brian Folus

A Hanukah Celebration Conductor: Brian Folus

arr. Bruce Chase

Christmas Memories
Soprano: Katie Bohdel

arr. Sheldon Bair

A Christmas Sing-Along 2

Some Assembly Required was acquired through the composer and author. Men of Goodwill was acquired through the Boosey & Hawkes rental library.







The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra is supported by funds from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive, and the Harford County Government through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



Music Director

Sheldon Bair is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Maryland), a community orchestra of over 90 members. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) where he studied conducting with Otis Kitchen and composition with James McVoy and Darrell Douglas, and a Master's degree from Towson University (Maryland). In addition, his postgraduate studies include classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Sheldon Bair has studied conducting with Witold Rowicki in Vienna, and Marc Mostovoy, William Hudson, and Leonid Grin.



Bair teaches orchestra for the Harford County Public Schools (Maryland), is adjunct faculty for Harford Community College, is on the conducting staff for the Elizabethtown College Music Camp, and is often invited to conduct and adjudicate youth orchestras and soloists. In November 2000, Bair was bestowed the Paderewski Award for Contributions to Society and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. In the fall of 2007, Bair was the guest conductor for the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra in Dallas, Texas; in February 2011 he conducted the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra in Norman, Oklahoma; and in October 2012 he conducted the Scarborough Philharmonic in Toronto, Canada. In the fall of 2007, 93 members of the Susquehanna Symphony appeared at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, performing a program of Polish music with several choirs in front of an appreciative, standing-room-only audience. In the fall of 2009, 100 members of the Susquehanna Symphony performed on the main stage at Carnegie Hall for the same Polish impresario, performing a program of Polish works under three different conductors. Bair participated in the Sixth Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall of 2011 by introducing Arnold's 9th Symphony at the final Gala Concert.

Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra, three works for the Susquehanna Symphony, and three works for church choir. Ensembles in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas have performed his music. Bair's student string orchestra music is published by Howard Publications. He lives in Bel Air, Maryland, with his wife Barbara (also a musician) and two of his three children (the eldest is married and lives in Virginia).

SSO Cancellation Policy

In the event of a cancellation of a concert due to weather emergencies, patrons may redeem their cancelled ticket for a ticket at the next concert.

Our Guest Conductor



Brian Folus, Principal Bassist for The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, has also been a frequent guest conductor of the SSO. He earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Towson University and began teaching in Harford County, Maryland in 1985. He earned a Master of Music degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1993, Mr. Folus has also completed an additional 30 graduate credits at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Mr. Folus studied conducting with Dr. Leigh Martinet, Mr. Ray Moore, and Maestro Leonid Grin.

Mr. Folus is currently teaching instrumental music at Red Pump Elementary School in Harford County, Maryland, and is on the Music Faculty of Harford Community College where he teaches string lessons.

Mr. Folus is the founding conductor of the Harford String Orchestra and assumed the podium of the Harford Youth Orchestra in the Fall of 2005. His arrangements for the Harford String Orchestra include "The Turtle Dove," the "Hanover Chorale," and an original composition "Summer Breezes." Mr. Folus' arrangement of "Symphony No. 1" by William Boyce has been published by Highland-Etling Publishers, the String Orchestra division of Alfred Publishing.



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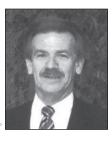
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About the Composers



Theldon Myers is an ASCAP award winning composer. He has written for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber groups, with performances, recordings, and publications of his works being featured throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Born in Illinois, he earned his B.S. degree from Northern Illinois University, his M.A. from California State University at Fresno, and his D.M.A. from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. His composition studies were with Wayne Bohrnstedt,

Arthur Bryon, Nadia Boulanger, Sandor Veress, and Stefans Grove. As Professor Emeritus of Composition and Theory at Towson University, Dr. Myers is presently active as a free-lance composer and arranger. His compositions are recorded on the Vienna Modern Masters and Contemporary Recording Studios labels.



Todd Goodman (Music) was born in Bedford, Pennsylvania in 1977. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in composition at the University of Colorado at Boulder; his Masters of Music degree in composition at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and a Ph.D. ABD in theory and composition from Kent State University. He has been described as "one of America's promising young composers." His work has been played by principal members of many major symphony orchestras, including the Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston, Singapore,

Florida, Iceland, and Seattle Symphonies. Goodman currently serves as the resident composer for the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center (LPPACenter. org) located outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Goodman served as resident composer for the Altoona Symphony Orchestra (2002–2006), the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra (2005–2006), and the Beaver Valley Philharmonic (2006–2007). As an advocate of arts education, Goodman also serves on the faculty of the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School (Ippacs.org), where he teaches musicianship and composition to some of Pennsylvania's finest young musicians. As an educator, he was recently

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About the Composers (Cont'd)



nominated as a quarter-finalist for the 2014 Grammy Award for Music Education.

Justin Cober-Lake (Story) lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is a graduate of Gettysburg College and holds an MA degree in English from the University of Virginia. Justin has mostly worked as a music journalist, publishing in venues such as *Paste, PopMatters, The Hook, Trouser Press*, and more. He has also published poetry, fiction, and essays, and was a co-founder of the literary fly fishing journals *Rise Forms*. He has

collaborated with Todd Goodman in the past, most notably writing for Todd's first symphony, *Fields of Crimson*.

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Program Notes

People Look East

Theldon Myers

This piece was written by Bel Air resident and former Towson University composition professor, Theldon Myers, using a French Advent carol, Besancon, as the inspiration for this musical fantasy that he wrote for the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. Since the medieval French word "carole" originally meant or suggested a celebratory round dance, the drum sets up and concludes the dance rhythm. Other instruments of the time period are incorporated in the work.

In 1928, London-born Eleanor Farjeon adapted the carole and wrote lyrics to the hymn entitled *Carol of Advent* that was published in the *Oxford Book of Carols*. In 1931 she set the old Gaelic melody *Bunessan* as a hymn writing the words for *Morning Has Broken* which gained secular popularity much later with the recording by Cat Stevens.

Some Assembly Required

Todd Goodman (Music), Justin Cober-Lake (Story)

Composer Goodman and author Cober-Lake, childhood friends from Bedford, Pennsylvania, created this work on a commission by the Altoona Symphony Orchestra who premiered the piece on February 25, 2004. The music and story suggests that sometimes even the smallest thing, with effort and time, can



become grand. Some Assembly Required takes the listener through a young girl's experience with a complex toy spaceship and her frustration with its assembly. Composer Goodman says, "This work is an exciting mix of music and storytelling that is sure to warm the hearts of listeners of all ages. The internal struggle this girl feels reflects our own personal struggles we have dealt with growing up. Sometimes we didn't think we were big enough, or skinny enough, or tall enough and the list goes on."

The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol

Percy Grainger (1882–1961), Orchestrated by Carl Simpson

At the age of 11, Australian-born Grainger travelled with his mother to London when his parents separated. Recognizing her son's musical talents, she took him to Germany to study at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfort. He lived in London again from 1901 to 1914, where being influenced by Edvard Grieg he began a lifelong interest in folksongs. His arrangement of *Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)* is perhaps one of his loveliest works and along with the piano piece *Country Gardens* are his most popular compositions. He moved to the United States at the outbreak of World War I and settled in White Plains, New York, becoming a US citizen in 1918.

The tune was taken down by Miss Lucy Broadwood at Lyne, near Horsham, Sussex in 1880–1881 from the singing of Christmas mummers called "tipteers"

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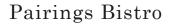
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or "tipteerers" during their play of St. George, the Turk, and the Seven Champions of Christendom. Originally set for violin or cello and piano, Grainger approved a version for viola. Although very slow in tempo, the piece as Paul Spicer writes, exhibits "Grainger's extraordinary ear for perfect sonorities, his seemingly unerring sense of rightness of the placing of notes in a chord, serves him particularly well in this carol." Richard Franko Goldman, director of the famous Goldman band, originally suggested to Grainger that he arrange this carol for band, but the composer died before beginning the project. After Grainger's death, Goldman undertook the completion and scoring and the first band performance was at the State College of lowa in the spring of 1963 under Goldman's direction. This 1994 orchestral arrangement is by Carl Simpson, an active composer and arranger who graduated cum laude from Southern Illinois University in 1979.

Men of Goodwill (Variations on a Christmas Carol) Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

This rarely performed work is a set of variations described by Max Derrickson as being "crafted with intelligence and charm. Britten uses only one carol as his theme: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. The origins of this wonderful Christmas standard come from England in the 1500s—its popularity then made its way into Europe and the United States....This is a piece of great, though subtle, magnificence, and yet, interestingly, the work ends with a conspicuously understated brass fugue."



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Robert Henderson, writing in The Daily Telegraph on February 9, 1982, describes it as "a shrewd and entertaining concert piece, the five variations consisting of a spirited jig, a seductive andantino cast in the form of a slow, opulently lyrical waltz, a rustic dance, pompous little march and rhetorical finale. Expertly scored, as one would expect, and written in his lightest vein."

The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers Leon Jessel (1871–1942), arr. Donald Raff

Jessel was a German composer who wrote 24 operettas and numerous light orchestral pieces and songs. His most famous operetta, *Black Forest Girl*, opened in Berlin in 1917 and ran for 900 performances. Over the next 10-year period it was performed approximately 6,000 times in Germany and abroad. It was also known to have been a favorite of Hitler and Himmler.

The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers was originally titled The Parade of the Tin Soldiers. The new title was popularized internationally by a vaudevillian in the 1920s. The piece became a hit single recording by three American dance orchestras, including that of Paul Whiteman, who also premiered Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. The famous Rockettes have been performing their choreographed version since 1933 in the annual Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

Because Jessel had been born Jewish (he converted to Christianity at the age of 23), and even though his second wife was a member of the Nazi party, he could



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not escape the persecution of those of Jewish heritage. His works were banned in 1933, his wife was expelled from the Nazi party in 1934, he was forced out of the State Music Bureau in 1937, and recording and distribution of his music was prohibited. In 1941 the Gestapo arrested him, took him to their torture chamber at Alexanderplatz in Berlin, and then to a hospital where he died on January 4, 1942.

In this arrangement I've utilized four wooden percussion instruments (wood block, xylophone, temple blocks, and ratchet) in keeping with the title.

A Hanukah Celebration

arr. Brian Folus

This work is dedicated to Maestro Sheldon Bair and the members of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Folus states, "This medley in based on popular Hanukah folksongs and includes *Who Can Retell; The Candle Lighting Blessing* melody featuring English horn and oboe solos; *Hanukah, O Hanukah; I Have a Little Dreidel; The Spinning Top* featuring a trombone choir, and concludes with *Rock of Ages*. Both traditional sounds and a touch of "Klezmer" style writing is used in this arrangement." This is Mr. Folus' first arrangement for the SSO.

Christmas Memories

arr. Bruce Chase

Arranger/composer Bruce Chase has successfully written and arranged numerous works for school and amateur music groups, especially strings and orchestra. *Christmas Memories* is one of several holiday medleys he has arranged and includes *Frosty the Snowman* by Nelson and Rollins; *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* by Coors and Gillespie; *Here Comes Santa Claus* by Gene Autry and Haiderman; *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* by T. Connors; and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* by Martin and Blane.

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Spring Concert

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A Christmas Sing-Along 2

arr. Sheldon Bair

After a few years of his first sing-along arrangement, Sheldon has written A Christmas Sing-Along 2. It begins with a tune that audience members may not recognize: On This Day (which you won't be asked to sing). The tune is also used as an interlude. Otherwise, please sing along to your heart's content. The words are below.

Introduction—On This Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see Thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in Thee tonight.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, All is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging; O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging; Not only green when summer's here, But also when 'tis cold and drear. O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Here We Come A-Caroling

Here we come a-caroling among the leaves so green, Here we come a-wand'ring so fair to be seen. Love and joy come to you And to you glad Christmas too, And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year, And God send you a Happy New Year.

Interlude—On This Day

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood The holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir.

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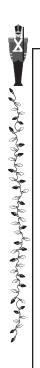
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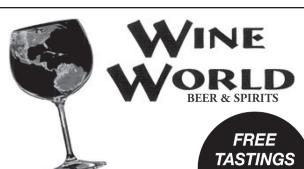
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